

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHRISTINE FATHE RUSH,

Plaintiff,

v.

MARTIN J. O'MALLEY, Commissioner  
of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:24-cv-00772-EPG

STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND  
PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND  
EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT; ORDER

(ECF No. 19)

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of \$7,500.00, under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412(d), 1920.

After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are subject to any offset.

1 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that  
2 Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses  
3 and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel, Francesco Benavides, pursuant to the assignment  
4 executed by Plaintiff. Payments may be made by electronic fund transfer (EFT) or by check.

5 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney  
6 fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or  
7 otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any  
8 and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Francesco Benavides, including the Law Offices of Francesco  
9 Benavides, may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

10 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Francesco Benavides to seek Social Security  
11 Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA.  
12

13  
14 Respectfully submitted,

15  
16 Dated: December 2, 2024

Law Offices of Francesco Benavides

17 By: /s/ Francesco Benavides  
18 FRANCESCO P. BENAVIDES  
19 Attorney for Plaintiff

20  
21  
22 Dated: December 2, 2024

PHILLIP A. TALBERT  
United States Attorney  
MATHEW W. PILE  
Associate General Counsel  
Social Security Administration

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24  
25 By: Erin Jurrens\*  
26 ERIN JURRENS  
27 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney  
28 Attorneys for Defendant  
(\*Permission to use electronic signature  
obtained via email on December 2, 2024).

**ORDER**

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses, **IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of \$7,500.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **December 3, 2024**

/s/ Eric P. Grogan  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE